

DE3-0081

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 38 as indicated.

Clean version of claim 38 is presented below:

DI SE CLAIM 38. (amended twice) A worm/worm gear assembly, comprising:

a worm; and

a worm gear, said worm gear being engaged in double flank contact with said worm such that a first contact area between a tooth of said worm and a tooth of said worm gear is smaller in size at a low load condition than a second contact area is at a higher load condition, and such that said first contact area at said low-load condition increases to form said second contact area at said higher load condition.